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BRIXWORTH RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR 1963



JOAN M. ST. V. DAWKINS
M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.

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M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Telephone:
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Council Offices,
Brixworth,
Northampton.

To THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BRIXWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my eighth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, incorporating that of the Public Health Inspector.

The vital statistics for the year 1963 show that there were 209 deaths, 20 less than last year. This gives a standardised rate of 8.78 compared with the national figure of 12.2. Female deaths exceeded male deaths by 28. Details and comments on the causes of death are on pages 10, 11 and 12.

The total number of births was 288 showing a decrease of 8 on last year's figure of 296, of which 15 were illegitimate, 5 more than last year. There were 3 infant deaths compared with 2 last year, two were under one month of age. The infant death rate rose to 10.42 compared with 6.76 last year, and is well below the national figure of 20.9.

There was an increase in infectious disease, notifications rising from 38 to 377 due to the biennial incidence of measles, notification for which rose from 17 to 342 cases. Once again no poliomyelitis is recorded. There were also 2 cases of dysentery and 2 of food poisoning. Infectious hepatitis became locally notifiable as from July 1st, 1962, but no cases have been notified. At the time of writing the typhoid outbreak at Aberdeen has recently occurred. The necessity for the strictest hygiene in the preparation and handling of food cannot be too strongly emphasised, and the need of all food handlers to be aware that serious illness can be caused through carelessness in their own personal habits.

This year 7 people died from pneumonia, 9 from bronchitis and 1 from influenza. There were no deaths from tuberculosis.

The respiratory infections still take a small toll of deaths, though many less than formerly. Usually those who finally succumb are aged or otherwise incapacitated.

Tuberculosis is within sight, now, of being controlled, and it is well to remember that it is still only within the last dozen years that this disease, once a scourge, has been overcome. The respiratory infections, however, generally are still a cause of considerable morbidity, influenza and bronchitis being the two commonest causes of incapacity for work.

The statistics for immunisation are included in the County Council statistics and are no longer broken down into individual districts. The local figures are therefore not available. However, I wish to stress the need for continued immunisation of infants, young children and early teenagers, to diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, smallpox and tuberculosis. It is only by maintaining a high level of immunisation that these diseases are prevented.

Housing development continued in a satisfactory manner. Private enterprise produced 153 houses, 70 less than in 1962, making a total of 1170 since the war. A further 90 houses were being erected at the end of 1963.

Improvement grants were made on 18 properties, the same as in 1962. During the year "Standard Grants" were paid on 7 properties.

The sewage scheme for Brixworth continued throughout the year also the scheme for Cottesbrooke and Creaton. In all 26 schemes have been completed which, together with 2 above, makes a total of 28. A good record for the District.

Despite the progress made there remain factors which prevent complacency. The new era of the Welfare State with full employment, little poverty and a society constantly able to afford and be in receipt of extra benefits leading to an increase of leisure and general prosperity, presents new problems, which afford no easy solution.

In the sphere of mental health there are still many aspects of ill health which could be prevented, with the consequent alleviation of much human misery. The splendid project, which the County Council together with the Red Cross have sponsored this year, has brought to light the further need for much action. The stable family which should be the lynch pin of society is often broken, leading to insecurity among the younger members and ending in failure of maturity, which may result in unstable and unhappy individuals, some becoming criminals others failing in life and work.

Many die needlessly from accidents both in the home and on the roads. The congestion on the roads will increase with inevitably more accidents. Unless a more mature attitude is adopted by all the carnage will increase. The prevention of road accidents is a further aspect of mental health.

Accidents in the home are all preventable, yet last year over 7,000 died as a result of such an accident, and no doubt countless thousands were injured. Those affected are usually the young and the aged. Mothers of young children need always to be on the look out for hazards, particularly in relation to burns and scalds, accidental poisoning and electricity. The aged have the problem of failure of sight, hearing, smell and balance, and their environment needs organising to combat these deficiencies.

Physical exertion by both men and women is constantly diminishing, resulting in an earlier incidence of coronary disease and strokes. This aspect of modern life must cause increasing concern, and it should be the objective of all individuals to exert themselves physically each day.

Diet is often unsuitable. Many are too obese and consume too much prepared and starchy foods. The incidence of dental decay in the young is far too prevalent. Fluoridation may ultimately help to harden the teeth of the new generation.

Finally, each year the incidence of cancer of the lung increases. Last year the national death rate was 24,422. Heavy smoking and cancer of the lung are unimpeachably related. Each new generation should be given the facts and be made aware of the dangers.

In conclusion I wish to thank the members of the Public Health Department for their excellent work during the year, and for their help in the compilation of this report. In addition, I wish to extend my grateful thanks to the Chairman of the Council, and the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committees for help and encouragement.

Finally, I express my appreciation to the County Medical Officer of Health for his ready co-operation in the supplying of information.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JOAN M. ST. V. DAWKINS.

Medical Officer of Health.

ERIXWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE WHO SERVED DURING THE COURSE OF THE YEAR.

Mr. E.T. Gardner (Chairman)

Dr. A.E. Thomas, J.P.
(Chairman of the Council)

Mr. P.L. Battle

Mr. E.P. Cowling

Mr. R.H. Dickins

Mr. J.T. Holmes

Mrs. J.D.R. Lambley

Mrs. W. Mahon

Mr. D.S. Mason

Mr. J.R. Hart (Deputy Chairman)

Captain R. Bailey, O.B.E., R.N.
(Vice-Chairman of the Council)

Mr. C.M. Newton, M.B.E.

Mr. T.R. Pegram

Mr. J.H. Rishworth

Mrs. E.M. Thwaites

Mr. E.A. Turney

Mr. R. Wallbank

Mr. W.R.M. Webster

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health:

JOAN M. ST. V. DAWKINS, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.,

also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health, Daventry Rural District
Council, Daventry Borough Council, Assistant County
Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

F. A. RUSSELL, F.F.S., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Assistant Public Health Inspector:

R. S. LINLEY, A.R.S.H.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	82,944
Population	...	18,800
Number of separate dwellings	...	6,430
Rateable Value 1963	...	£536,408
Product of a Penny Rate	...	£2,180

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 estimated</u>	<u>Rate for England and Wales</u>
Legitimate	124	149	273		
Illegitimate	8	7	15		
	<u>132</u>	<u>156</u>	<u>288</u>	15.32	18.2

<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>				<u>Rate per 1000 Live and Still Births</u>	
Legitimate	3	2	5		
Illegitimate	-	-	-	17.37	17.3

<u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS</u>			
Legitimate	127	151	278
Illegitimate	8	7	15

INFANT DEATHS

Deaths under 1 year per 1000 live births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Live Births</u>	<u>Rate for England and Wales</u>
Legitimate	1	2	3	10.42	20.9
Illegitimate	-	-	-	Nil	

NEONATAL DEATHS

Legitimate	1	1	1	3.47	14.2
Illegitimate	-	-	-		

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE WEEK

Legitimate	-	2	2
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Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births - 5.35

Maternal Mortality (including abortion) NIL
 " " per 1000 live and stillbirths .28 .35

DEATHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 population</u>	<u>Rate for England and Wales</u>
	91	118	209	11.12	12.2

TABULATED SUMMARY FOR PREVIOUS YEARS

Year	Estimated Population	<u>Births</u>		<u>Deaths</u>		<u>All Ages</u>	
		<u>Under 1 year</u>					
		No.	Crude Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Crude Rate
1953	17990	267	14.88	11	41.19	235	13.06
1954	18300	266	14.51	4	15.03	257	14.04
1955	18440	276	14.96	5	15.11	270	14.64
1956	18620	260	13.96	6	23.08	220	11.82
1957	18860	262	13.89	7	26.72	240	12.72
1958	19170	303	15.80	5	15.10	226	11.80
1959	19270	283	14.94	3	10.4	214	11.11
1960	19470	310	15.92	2	6.45	229	11.76
1961	18480	274	16.77	8	14.59	229	12.39
1962	18620	296	15.90	2	6.76	229	12.29
1963	18800	288	15.32	3	10.42	209	11.12

SECTION A,

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Rural District is centrally situated in the County of Northamptonshire, extending in the south from the County Borough of Northampton and in the north to the Leicestershire border. The character of the area is largely rural and the main industry is agriculture. A few light industries are scattered throughout the district. Open cast iron workings are present in the vicinity of Pitsford and Brixworth.

The district presents a picture of largely unspoilt rural country, with many woods, set in an undulating countryside enlivened by the stretches of water of the reservoirs, which are a characteristic of the area.

POPULATION. The Registrar General gives the estimated population for the mid-year 1963 as 18800, an increase of 180 on the population of the previous year. The natural increase in population, the excess of births over deaths was 79.

DEATHS. The total number of deaths assigned to the District for the year was 209, 20 less than in 1962. The crude death rate based on the mid-year population was 11.12 compared with 12.29 in the previous year. The following table has been compiled for comparison with the four previous years :-

<u>Years</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Recorded</u>
1959	214	98	116	11.11
1960	229	99	130	11.76
1961	229	84	145	12.39
1962	229	100	129	12.29
1963	209	91	118	11.12

In order to compare the mortality in the District with the mortality for England and Wales it is necessary to make a correction to allow for the difference in age and sex distribution of the two populations. This is done by applying to the crude death rate of the District an "Area Comparability Factor" which has been estimated by the Registrar General as .79 for this District. In addition the area comparability factors have been adjusted specifically to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in the area. There are a number of institutions in this area for old people and this adjustment is therefore very necessary in order to obtain a true picture of the area mortality.

The Standardised Death Rate, therefore, is 8.78 and well below the figure of 12.2 for England and Wales.

Causes of Death.

The causes of death are shewn in the statistical table on page 12 and are classified under thirty six headings, based on the abbreviated list of the International, Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death 1948, as used for England and Wales. This year the Registrar-General has listed the Causes of Death in age groups, of under 1 year, then in quincades to fifteen and thereafter in decades to 75 and over. Male and female deaths are also shown.

The vital statistics for the year show that there were 209 deaths, 20 less than last year. This gives a standardised rate of 8.78 compared with the national figure of 12.2. Female deaths exceeded male deaths by 27. The great preponderance of deaths from diseases of the heart and circulation is once more evident, making a total of 134 of which 39 died from coronary disease alone, while 43 died from other heart disease, a further 42 from vascular lesions of the nervous system, and 10 from hypertension and other circulatory diseases.

Disease of the heart and circulation constitute therefore over one half of the total deaths. Cancer remains again the second cause of death, taking this year 30 persons, a decrease of 20 on last year. 7 died (all males) from cancer of the lung, a decrease of 6 on last year. Disease of the heart and circulation together with cancer cause in the district 77% of the total deaths.

The trend of principal causes of death continues therefore towards the mainly degenerative and neoplastic conditions, and away from infectious disease now largely controlled by the wide number of antibiotic and other drugs. However, it can be seen that 49 persons out of a total of 209 deaths died before the age of 65. The causes of their deaths were predominately either due to respiratory infection, accidents, arterial disease or cancer.

Accidents both on the road and in the home take an indiscriminate toll of young and old. On the road there is an ever increasing carnage, which if caused by an infectious disease would create a consternation so urgent that every power would be invoked for its control. Each year more automobiles are licensed and soon no family will be without its motor car.

Accidents in the home are all preventable, yet last year over 7,000 died as a result of such an accident, and no doubt countless thousands were injured. Those affected are usually the young and the aged. Mothers of young children need always to be on the look out for hazards, particularly in relation to burns and scalds, accidental poisoning and electricity. The aged have the problem of failure of sight, hearing, smell and balance, and their

environment needs organising to combat these deficiencies.

The automobile may also play its part as an indirect cause of another often fatal and crippling condition of atherosclerosis. This is a mainly degenerative state of the arteries affecting all ultimately but becoming now more evident in the earlier years. It is a disease of an affluent, largely sedentary car driving society where men instead of hunting or growing their food, ride to work in cars and seldom use their muscles; who eat more than they need and worry too much, and whose leisure is often spent looking at television. Here in this district 5 men under 55 years, and 5 under 65 years have died from coronary artery disease of the heart, while a further 3 under 55 have died from strokes. The necessity for the taking of regular physical exercise from early youth to old age cannot be too strongly emphasised. As your Medical Officer, each year I stress this matter and proffer the following advice.

Devise ways of taking pleasurable exercise, garden, or take a hobby involving physical labour, walk whenever it is possible, run upstairs instead of using the lift, buy a dog, go dancing, go cycling with the children, or join keep fit classes. I would like to see more middle aged men and women dancing. This is a convivial and healthy way of spending an evening and splendid exercise.

Finally there are the deaths, the causes of which as yet evade us. These are largely in the group of cancers. There remains one condition, that of cancer of the lung which has been proved to have a relationship with cigarette smoking. Last year 24,422, a further increase of 1,000, people died as a result of such cancer. 7 were from this district. Yet cigarette smoking declines little. It is the duty of every parent, teacher, and those who influence the young, to see that each succeeding generation of young people are aware of the hazards that await them when they start regular smoking.

The respiratory infections still take their toll, though less than formerly. The great majority of deaths from pneumonia are in those whose health is undermined by other causes and is as such only a terminal event.

M O R T A L I T Y T A B L E.

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria ..	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough ..	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles ..	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lungs, bronchus ..	7	-	7
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	12	5	17
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes ..	1	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	7	35	42
17. Coronary disease, angina	23	16	39
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	-	1
20. Other heart disease	9	34	43
21. Other circulatory disease	4	5	9
22. Influenza ..	1	-	1
23. Pneumonia ..	3	4	7
24. Bronchitis ..	7	2	9
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	4	9	13
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	3
34. All other accidents	4	2	6
35. Suicide ..	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	91	118	209
	==	==	==

Associated Mortality Statistics:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
STILL BIRTHS ..	3	2	5
DEATHS of infants under 1 year	1	2	3
DEATHS of infants under 4 weeks (included in previous figure)	-	2	2

BIRTHS. The number of live births was 288 compared with 296 in 1962. The rate per thousand of the population was 15.32. Applying the Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor for births (1.07) to this figure the Standardised Birth Rate obtained for this district - 16.39 compared with 18.2 for England and Wales.

STILL BIRTHS. The number of still births during 1963 was 5 (3 males and 2 females). The resultant rate for the district is 17.37 which is the same as the rate for England and Wales. The rates for the past five years are given in the following table (per 1,000 live and still births) by way of comparison.

STILL BIRTH RATE.

<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>
13.7	12.90	21.90	10.03	17.37

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS. There were 15 illegitimate births assigned to the district during the year (8 males and 7 females), compared with 10 in 1962. Shown as a proportion of the total number of live births this represents 5.21 per cent.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. No deaths associated with pregnancy or child-birth were recorded during the year.

INFANT MORTALITY. The number of infants who died before reaching their first birthday was 3 (1 male and 2 females), one more than in 1962. The resultant rate of 10.42 compares favourably with 20.9 for England and Wales.

DEATH RATE UNDER 1 YEAR PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.

<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>
10.4	6.45	14.59	6.76	10.42

NEONATAL DEATH RATE. The number of infants who failed to survive for 4 weeks after birth was 2 females. This gives a rate per 1,000 live births of 10.42 or 1.04 per cent. This is very much lower than the rate of 14.2 for England and Wales.

The Registrar General gives a further sub-division, in his returns this year, of deaths of infants under one week of age. There was one death in this group.

These deaths are included in the Infant Mortality Rate.

TABLE OF CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS.

	<u>Neonatal</u>	<u>1 - 12</u> <u>months</u>
1. (a). Atelectasis	1	
2. 1 (a). Prematurity		
II. Hyaline Membrane Disease	1	
3. 1 { (a). Hyperpyrexia		
(b). Convulsions		1
(c). Virus Meningitis		

S E C T I O N B .

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES.

LABORATORY SERVICE. Laboratory work in connection with the diagnosis and control of infectious diseases is carried out at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory in Northampton under Dr. Hoyle, and is free of cost to the Local Authority. An efficient and helpful service is always provided, and we thank Dr. Hoyle for constant co-operation.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES. The following centres are held at the places and dates indicated. Your Medical Officer of Health is in attendance in her capacity as Assistant County Medical Officer.

BRIXWORTH INFANT WELFARE -

3rd. Friday each month at Village Hall.

WELFORD INFANT WELFARE -

4th Thursday each month at Village Hall.

BOUGHTON INFANT WELFARE -

2nd Wednesday each month at Boughton Institute.

MOULTON INFANT WELFARE -

1st Tuesday each month at Manfield Hall.

SPRATTON INFANT WELFARE -

4th Tuesday each month at Women's Institute.

The Mobile Caravan Clinic which was instituted to supply services to those villages who were without access to existing Clinics, now operates at Ravensthorpe, East Haddon, Little and Great Brington, Holcot, Walgrave, Old and Hannington.

AMBULANCE SERVICE. General medical and surgical cases are removed by the County Ambulance Service, under the control of the County Council. Infectious diseases cases are also removed under the same arrangements.

NURSING IN THE HOME. The services of District Nurses, Mid-wives and Health Visitors are provided by the County Council, and the area is well covered. The Home Help Service is also provided by the County Council and is usually made through the direction and recommendation of the District Nurse. This is a very necessary service, and affords considerable benefit to the Community both

for domiciliary maternity cases and particularly in this area in the care of old people, who can remain comfortably at home, and who, without this help would be in Institutions.

GENERAL HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION. The Oxford Regional Hospital Board is responsible for the provision of hospitals and out patient clinics.

All medical, surgical and paediatric and gynaecological cases are treated at Northampton General Hospital.

Maternity cases are treated at the Barratt Hospital, which forms part of the General Hospital.

Accident and orthopaedic cases are treated at the General Hospital, and the latter also at the Manfield Hospital, Northampton.

Two Geriatric Units for old ladies are situated at Pitsford within this district.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL. Cases of Infectious Disease which require isolation are treated at the Harborough Road Isolation Hospital, Northampton, which comes under the administration of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board. Cases of tuberculosis are treated at Creaton Hospital.

WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE. National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47 and National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

Under this section the Council is responsible for the removal to suitable premises of persons needing care and attention. No action was necessary, under this Act, this year, though a number of old people were kept under supervision, and arrangements made for them to enter Institutions, or to be looked after by other means. We are fortunate in this district in having two comfortable country houses at Pitsford as hospitals for old ladies. We have no accommodation in the district for males who have either to go to St. Edmunds Hospital, Northampton, or to Danetre Hospital, Daventry.

SERVICES FOR OLD PEOPLE.

The following provide services for old people -

1. The National Health Service.

(a) General Practitioner Service.

(b) Hospital and Specialist Services including the Almoner Service. In this district there are two geriatric hospitals for old ladies at Pitsford.

2. The County Council.

(a) The Health Department.

1. District Nurses.
2. Health Visitors.
3. Home Helps.
4. Chiropody Service.
5. Certain home equipment where necessary.

(b) The Welfare Department.

1. Part III accommodation and homes. There are none in this District.
2. Special services for blind etc., and home fittings where necessary.

3. The National Assistance Board.

Financial help where necessary.

4. The District Council.

Homes for the aged, flats and in some cases flatlets with warden supervision.

5. Voluntary Organisations.

These are many and services vary in different areas. They include holiday schemes in which old people are taken on seaside holidays in off season times. The Darby and Joan Clubs, "Meals on Wheels" Service, and Home Visiting. The Womens Voluntary Service very often undertake many of the above duties, while in other areas local voluntary Committees run the various organisations. The Rural Communities Council together with the Old Peoples Welfare Committee provide co-operation between the various services.

Your Medical Officer of Health having a special interest in the welfare of the aged and by virtue of her appointment both to the District and the County Council and by her relationship with other Medical colleagues endeavours to fulfil the function of co-operation and co-ordination between these many agencies. Many cases of breakdown can be prevented by early application of these services.

Voluntary organisations have also requested that your Medical Officer should give lectures and talks and each invitation is accepted and fulfilled.

6. Darby and Joan Clubs.

Mr. Linley, Assistant Public Health Inspector and Chairman of the Club at Brixworth, has kindly supplied the following report :-

" The 'Evergreen' Club in Brixworth has continued to fill a long felt need, and has made excellent progress, the present membership exceeding 50.

The number of old people attending has increased to such an extent that larger premises are becoming a necessity, and it would appear that the Village Hall will soon be the only place large enough to accommodate the members.

A trip to the Pantomime was organised and upon their return the old people were provided with an excellent tea, followed by entertainment.

During the summer a day trip to Shropshire was also organised, and with delightful weather, a most enjoyable day was spent.

Harpole Club members invited the Brixworth Club to Harpole and in turn the Harpole members paid a return visit. An interesting feature of these gatherings was that two elderly gentlemen, who had served together in the First World War, renewed acquaintance, not having met in the intervening years.

The Chiropody service has been continued with more members taking advantage of the facilities.

A party was arranged to celebrate the Club's first anniversary, when over 50 members were present, and all had a very enjoyable afternoon.

Further outings have already been arranged, and it is pleasing to think that so much pleasure is being given to our members in the "twilight" of their lives, and there is no doubt but that a great service is being done by all those very willing helpers who regularly turn up to assist; not least of course by the Secretary, Mrs. Toombes. "

The Leader of the Walgrave Club, Mrs. Lewis, informs me that they continue to meet each Monday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Total membership is about 50.

Card games are played and small prizes awarded. The members are served with light refreshments. The average number attending is approximately 36. During the summer a Mystery Tour was organised when the members visited the area around Peterborough where tea was provided. A Christmas Party was also arranged, and each anniversary of the Club is celebrated.

Mrs. G. Vaughan, Secretary of the Welford 'Welcome' Club, reports that the Club has a membership of approximately 45. The Club meets on the first Thursday of each month. It is interesting to note that one member is 92 years of age and that he has two daughters and a son-in-law who are also members.

A number of outings were organised during the year and a Birthday Party to celebrate the Club's 2nd Anniversary was held in April.

Films are sometimes shown and carols sung at the December Meeting.

It would appear that the Club is rendering a real service and bringing much enjoyment to its members.

7. County Council Mental Health Year Project.

To mark the centenary of the Red Cross which was celebrated this year, the County Council and members of the Red Cross co-operated in a Mental Health Year Project. The objective was to educate with the hope to influence the public outlook towards mental health.

Homes were visited by members of the Red Cross and Health Visitors, who completed detailed questionnaires designed to reveal public attitude to mental health. There then followed a period of intensive education throughout the county, when meetings, films, visits and discussion groups were held. Broadcasts and television programmes, heard and seen on a national level were also organised. Finally, a further questionnaire was sent out, the results of which are now in the course of analysis. It is to be hoped that this fine project succeeds in influencing the public attitude in a favourable manner to those affected by mental illness or sub-normality.

E C T I O N C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLIES.

All responsibility for water undertaking throughout the entire Rural District is now vested in the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board. The source of supply for the Board is Pitsford Reservoir which has a capacity of about 4,000 million gallons. Treatment of water consists of softening, filtration, and finally chlorination. There is no plumbo solvency.

The following figures are supplied by the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board :-

Bacteriological samples taken in Brixworth Rural District	..	52
Chemical analyses at Treatment Works		27
Bacteriological samples taken at Treatment Works	..	726

Unfortunately no figures are readily available for the number of houses supplied (a) direct from the mains, and (b) by stand-pipes.

PRIVATE SUPPLIES.

No samples were taken during the year.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

By the end of the year the new scheme for Brixworth and the combined scheme for the villages of Creaton and Cottesbrooke were virtually finished. This brings the total number of schemes completed since the war to 28.

This means that with the exception of Guilsborough, which requires resewering only, and the Bringtons, all the larger villages have been dealt with, and the remaining parishes yet to receive attention consist of very small villages or hamlets.

This is a very satisfactory state of progress and an achievement on which the Council can be congratulated.

DISINFECTION. Concurrent and terminal disinfection by means of gaseous liquid disinfectants is carried out in houses where certain

infectious diseases are notified. In the course of the year a number of requests for disinfection of premises were received and dealt with.

DISINFESTATION. This service is carried out on behalf of the Council at the request of owners or tenants of houses complaining of the presence of vermin. No such action was necessary during 1963. (This includes the eradication of bed bugs).

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

During the year the existing staff proved adequate to discharge the Council's responsibilities under the Act; no major rat infestations occurred on the Council's properties throughout the period under review. Refuse tips are treated regularly throughout the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS - PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. SECTION 26. AND THE CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960.

One licence was granted by the Council during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse has been collected weekly throughout the District during the year on the "kerb side" system. Following representations from the County Branch of the Womens Institute that in the cases of old and infirm persons at least, collections should be made from the back door, the Council gave serious consideration to a "back door" collection for all domestic premises, as a result of which it was decided to change over to the "paper sack" system of collection. It has further been decided that the change over should be completed in five years doing approximately one fifth of the District each year, the first stage to come into operation early in 1964.

This is another step forward, providing as it does at the same time, a "back door" collection with a much more hygienic system both of collection and disposal, and the Council are again to be congratulated in being amongst the forward authorities who have adopted this much improved system.

SECTION D.

H O U S I N G.

Housing Act, 1957.

No. of permanent dwellings in area	6430
Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation according to Sec.16 of the Act and suitable for action under Secs.17 & 42 of the Housing Act, 1957.	226
No. of houses for inclusion in Clearance Areas	127
No. of houses already covered by Clearance Orders	3
No. of houses for individual demolition	96

It is of interest to note that, for the purposes of the report, the total number of unfit houses revealed by the original survey, plus subsequent additions is 942 but by the time the report had been prepared 307 of these had been sufficiently improved to merit upgrading, whilst a further 409 had been demolished.

The usual work of the Council under the Housing and Public Health Acts continued, and the details are set out in tabular form below and on page 41.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 17.

1. No. of unfit houses represented	Nil
2. No. of Demolition Orders made	Nil
3. No. of houses demolished	Nil
4. No. of persons affected	Nil

Housing Act, 1957. Section 42.

1. No. of Clearance Orders made	Nil
2. No. of houses included in Area	Nil
3. No. of houses demolished	Nil
4. No. of persons affected	Nil

Other associated housing statistics.

1. No. of undertakings received	Nil
2. No. of unfit houses upgraded	9

From these details it will be observed that the total number of unfit houses throughout the district declined by 16 during the year, either through improvements or demolition, whilst no further houses came under control by means of an undertaking from the owner not to re-let after vacation until made fit for human habitation.

Whilst these figures show good progress in slum clearance during the year under review, it should be remembered that the slum clearance problem in the Brixworth Rural District had largely been dealt with by the end of 1960. A survey of the position at the end of the year 1963 is appended below, and shows the position in better perspective, with only 27 houses remaining to be dealt with. This is a very satisfactory position with regard to which the District Council are to be congratulated.

No. the subject of Undertakings	183
No. dealt with by Demolition Order, Clearance Order or Closing Order	425
No. repaired by owners and up- graded ..	307
No. remaining to be dealt with	27

Nevertheless it must again be recorded that a fairly large number of sub-standard houses are still occupied by single persons or old couples. Practically the whole of these are the subject of Undertakings not to re-let when they become vacant. Though the majority may be adequate to serve the life-time of the present tenants, a re-survey of these properties is at present being made in order to determine this. The Council has no new houses under construction but the survey referred to may reveal a need for a few more old peoples' bungalows.

Private owners continue to take advantage, encouraged by the Council, of the financial aid available for improving their properties. The position to date is summarised as follows -

383 properties have been brought up to modern standards by the provision of Discretionary Grants amounting in total to £94,962. The most significant thing about this, however, is that 75 of the 383 referred to were substandard and as a result of the improvements, costing £17,556, they have been upgraded and their

useful life prolonged for many years. It is fairly certain that had these 75 properties not been upgraded with the assistance of grants they would have had to have been demolished, so that it may be said that for an investment of a little over £17,000 the Council have been saved the provision of over 70 new houses which would cost in the region of £100,000.

88 Standard Grants have been approved to date, of which 69 have been completed and grant aided to a total cost of £5,200.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

THE MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1959.

The above Regulations made jointly by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Minister of Health, came into operation on 8th March, 1959, and brought earlier regulations into line with modern methods of milk production. They simplified much of the existing procedure, making it easier for milk to be produced; handled and distributed under up to date hygienic conditions.

The enforcement of the Regulations is the responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and (as regards milk distribution and infected milk) by the Local Authority.

On November 25th, 1957, the Rural District became a Specified Area for the sale of milk, as a result of which no milk which has not been tuberculin tested, pasteurised or sterilized may be sold in the area.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1939 - CLEAN FOOD.

DAIRIES. There are three registered dairies in the District, and during the year a satisfactory standard of cleanliness was maintained therein.

FOOD PREMISES. There are 87 food premises in the District, the total number being made up as follows - 66 shops, 3 cafes, 13 butchers shops and 5 bakeries.

CONDEMNED FOOD. Condemned food is disposed of in one of two ways, i.e. tinned food is buried at one of the Council's refuse tips, and unsound meat is sent to the Pytchley Hunt Kennels.

ICE CREAM. Most retailers are still selling pre-packed varieties only, but with the introduction of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955, it is now possible to register premises for the sale of both completely wrapped and partly wrapped products.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

During the year efforts have been made to improve further the general standard of food hygiene throughout the District. In spite of the difficulties involved it can fairly be stated

that the majority of food traders are endeavouring to attain satisfactory standards. 123 visits were paid to food premises under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Samples taken in the Brixworth Rural District during the year 1963 by the County Council.

Milk	81	Brought forward	115
Spirits	6	Jelly	1
Meat products	8	Butter	2
Ice cream	4	Margarine	2
Soft drinks	1	Lard	1
Custard powder	1	Sweets	1
Cream	1	Pastes	2
Medicines	3	Cake	1
Jam	4	Vinegar	1
Fruit and vegetables	<u>6</u>	Almond marzipan	1
Carried forward	115	TOTAL	<u>127</u>

Remarks.

Only one sample of milk was reported to be below standard in fat and this is a lower figure for the Rural District than has been usual in the last few years. The milk sample which received an adverse report was taken from a producer with a herd known to produce poor quality milk although it is now showing some signs of improvement.

The remaining samples were completely satisfactory.

SALE OF FOOD (WEIGHTS AND MEASURES) ACT, 1926.

2,767 articles of food were checked for weight or measure during the year and only 32 of these were found to be incorrect. The errors were all of a minor nature and were dealt with by advice or warning at the time they were detected.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

At the beginning of the year there were two slaughterhouses licensed, having been brought up to the standards prescribed in the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958, and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.

It is not anticipated that any further slaughterhouses will be brought up to standard.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Inspection of meat was maintained at 100%, and findings are recorded below in a table based on that suggested by the Ministry of Health.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	363	1	2640	1
Number inspected	363	1	2640	1
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	44	Nil	83	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	12.12	Nil	3.14	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.27	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>				
Carcasses of which part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	15	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There was a very considerable increase in the notification of infectious diseases. This was due to the increase of measles notifications from 17 last year to 342 this year, and which continues to show its biennial incidence.

MEASLES. Notifications rose to 342. This disease though highly infectious is now, like scarlet fever, of a more benign character, seldom showing serious complications. However, in the more delicate, and occasionally in normal children ear or eye infections or pneumonia still occur. These are, however, usually soon and successfully dealt with by the large number of effective antibiotics that are now available.

SCARLET FEVER. 7 cases were notified. This disease continues in its mild phase. Its principle interest is that it gives a rough indication of the amount of streptococcal infection in the community.

WHOOPING COUGH. 19 cases were notified. This is another condition which is becoming largely more benign, but in some cases this can be distressing, and in infancy a serious illness. Protection to this disease is often by triple vaccination, together with tetanus and diphtheria.

DYSENTERY. An outbreak of sonne dysentery occurred at a girls' boarding school. Though only two cases were notified it was found on investigation that there had been a large number of cases. Consultations were held with the General Practitioner to the school the Matron, Headmistress and other staff. Full hygiene precautions were taken, and outside visits for games matches with other schools temporarily discontinued. The outbreak was soon contained and there were no further cases.

POLIOMYELITIS. Once again there have been no cases, and this freedom can be ascribed to immunisation as the decline in incidence has occurred concurrently with vaccination. The oral Sabin vaccine is now used which gives a longer lasting immunity than the Salk or injected variety. A drink of syrup or a lump of sugar is also much more acceptable to the young patients than the previous needle prick.

ERYSIPELAS. One cases was notified (1 female)

TYPHOID FEVER. No cases occurred.

DIPHTHERIA. There have been no cases of diphtheria in Northamptonshire since 1956. There is therefore with each successive year of freedom from infection a diminishing public recollection of the dangers of this infection. Mothers without knowledge of the disease feel a false security and may fail to have their children immunised. That this is a dangerous situation cannot be too strongly stressed, and only by keeping up the numbers of children immunised may the disease be kept in check. It is the duty of all parents to have their children immunised, and if they fail to do so they neglect their children's welfare.

PNEUMONIA. 2 cases were notified and there were 7 deaths. Respiratory infection continues to be a cause of much ill health and chronic suffering. A very marked decline in deaths from pneumonia has taken place since the discovery of the sulphonamides and antibiotics, however, in chronic sufferers from bronchitis and in the aged and debilitated, some cases do still prove fatal.

The incidence of chronic nasal catarrh often with the later development of sinusitis is still an all too common occurrence. Many schoolchildren still suffer from nasal catarrh. The cause is obscure and the need for research into this problem continues to be stressed.

MENINGITIS. Two cases occurred. The first was in a schoolboy who was admitted to hospital from a boarding school. The meningitis was considered to be of virus origin, and the boy soon recovered fully. The second case was in a schoolgirl, who was admitted to hospital with meningococcal meningitis. She was diagnosed early and made a complete recovery. An infant death from virus meningitis is recorded, but this was never notified, and was not known until the transferred death return was received.

SMALLPOX. There were no cases. The incidence of vaccination rose last year as public reaction to the cases of imported smallpox was considerable. It is probable that there will be a fall this year. The vaccination of children is still necessary and should be carried out sometime during the first two years of life, preferably between the first and second year.

INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS. The Minister of Health gave sanction that this disease should be made locally notifiable as from July 1st, 1962. By arrangement with other District Councils this also became operative in the County of Northamptonshire. No cases were notified during the year.

FOOD POISONING - PARATYPHOID "B". Two cases occurred. The first in a schoolgirl and the second in her mother who was also the District Nurse. The girl was treated successfully in hospital and her mother at home. Both cases responded to treatment and no further cases were known. Extensive investigations of both the source of infection and of contacts took place, especially as the nurse had visited many patients in their homes just prior to contracting symptoms of illnesses. A further case of Paratyphoid "B" was admitted to hospital from another district, and the only possible common contact between the cases was the consumption of cream cakes bought at a bakery in Northampton. Artificial cream from this bakery was tested and the Medical Officer of Health of the Borough of Northampton co-operated in the investigation of food handlers, but no positive results were obtained. However, later in the year outbreaks of Paratyphoid "B" were reported in various parts of the country and were related to imported Chinese egg in artificial cream. It is, therefore, not improbable that this had been the source of infection of the Northamptonshire cases.

Notification of the following cases of infectious disease was received during the year.

DISEASE	M.	F.	Total	Rate per 1,000 population
Acute Primary Pneumonia	2	-	2	.11
Whooping Cough	11	8	19	1.01
Measles ..	168	174	342	18.19
Scarlet Fever ..	3	4	7	.37
Erysipelas ..	-	1	1	.05
Dysentery ..	-	2	2	.11
Meningitis ..	1	1	2	.11
Paratyphoid "B"	-	2	2	.11
Total	185	192	377	

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

Children are offered immunisation to the following diseases - Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis and Smallpox in the earlier years. These procedures are carried out by General Practitioners or by the County Council at their Child Welfare Clinics which are held in this District at the Centres detailed on page 15.

In addition, the County Council provides a mobile caravan clinic which visits many villages of the area which were not formerly accessible to welfare clinics. The following villages are visited :-

Ravensthorpe, East Haddon, Great and Little Brington, Holcot, Walgrave, Old and Hannington.

Figures are not available this year of the numbers immunised in the District. The County Council will include these in their statistics for the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of The Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

Vaccination against tuberculosis is offered by the County Council to all children at 13 years of age. This is carried out in the schools and there is a high acceptance rate.

T U B E R C U L O S I S .

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF NEW CASES AND DEATHS, 1963.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Other		Pulmonary		Other	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE
No. 1 Unit, Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

We thank the Medical Director for supplying the following figures :-

Old People's Homes, Pitsford,
Nr. Northampton.

12.6.64.

Response: 100%

<u>Summary of Work</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. of miniature films taken	4	45	49
No. referred to chest clinic	-	-	-
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	2	17	19
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	2	28	30

Summary of newly discovered significant
cases of tuberculosis.

<u>Group</u>	<u>No. Examined</u>	<u>Active</u> <u>P.T.</u>	<u>Inactive</u> <u>P.T.</u>
Middlesex House: Staff	14	-	-
Patients	12	-	-
Pitsford House : Staff	15	-	-
Patients	8	-	-
TOTAL	49	-	-

S E C T I O N G .

F A C T O R I E S A C T , 1937 .

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF
THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937, FOR THE YEAR 1963.

CLASSIFIED LIST OF REGISTERED FACTORIES
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1963.

		Power	Non- Power
1.	Food manufacture	4	-
2.	Wearing Apparel :-		
	(a) Boots and Shoes	1	-
	(b) Outfitting	2	-
3.	Carpentry, Joinery & Sawmills	10	5
4.	Garages, Repair Shops and Engineers ..	16	5
5.	Laundries ..	3	-
6.	Plumbers ..	-	2
7.	Purification of water	2	-
8.	Leather Accessories	2	-
9.	Gasholders ..	1	-
TOTAL		41	12

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	19	37	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	34	14	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
	53	51	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspec.	by H.M. Inspec.	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7).					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK.

Nature of Work	Section 110				Section 111	
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (i) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending list to the Council	No. of prose- cutions for failure to supply lists	No. of inst- ances of work in un- whole- some prem- ises	Notices served	Prose- cutions
Making Wearing Apparel	8	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	8	-	-	-	-	-

SUMMARY OF
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S INSPECTIONS.

Housing	..	1451
Slaughterhouses and Butchers Shops		166
Bakehouses	..	17
Cafes	..	6
Shops	..	100
Factories and Workshops		51
Water Supplies	..	14
Infectious Diseases	..	9
Defective Premises	..	115
Defective Drainage	..	21
Pests Destruction	..	56
Tents, Vans and Sheds		61
Dairies	..	2
		<hr/>
		2069
		<hr/>

NOTICES SERVED :-

Informal - Section 92 Public Health Act, 1936	9
Statutory - do.	Nil

